

REMARKS

The Examiner requires restriction to one of the following two Groups:

Group I: Claim(s) 1-7 and 15-21, drawn to pharmaceutical compositions comprising the human hANP natriuretic peptide of SEQ ID No: 1, rat rANP peptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, human BNP peptide of SEQ ID NO: 4, frog ANP peptide of SEQ ID NO: 5, pig BNP peptide of SEQ ID NO: 6, rat BNP peptide of SEQ ID NO: 7 *or* the chick NP peptide of SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively, and methods of making these compositions by adding a pharmaceutical carrier.

Group II: Claim(s) 8-14 and 22-25, drawn to methods of treating a Th1-mediated immune disease or regulating the Th1/Th2 balance in the immune system comprising administering a natriuretic peptide.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects **Group II**, which covers claims 8-14 and 22-25, drawn to, according to the Examiner, methods of treating a Th1-mediated immune disease or regulating the Th1/Th2 balance in the immune system comprising administering a natriuretic peptide.

Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, early notification of a favorable consideration is respectfully requested. An indication of allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

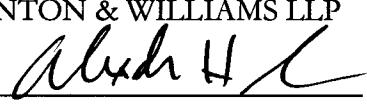
A petition for a two month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith, thereby extending the period within which to file a response up to and including June 4, 2009. Accordingly, this submission is responsive within the paid-for extensions of time. Should any additional fees be required to enter and consider this response, the USPTO is authorized to charge these fees to **Deposit Account No. 50-0206**.

Respectfully submitted,

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